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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed

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3 August 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Belgium; [redacted]

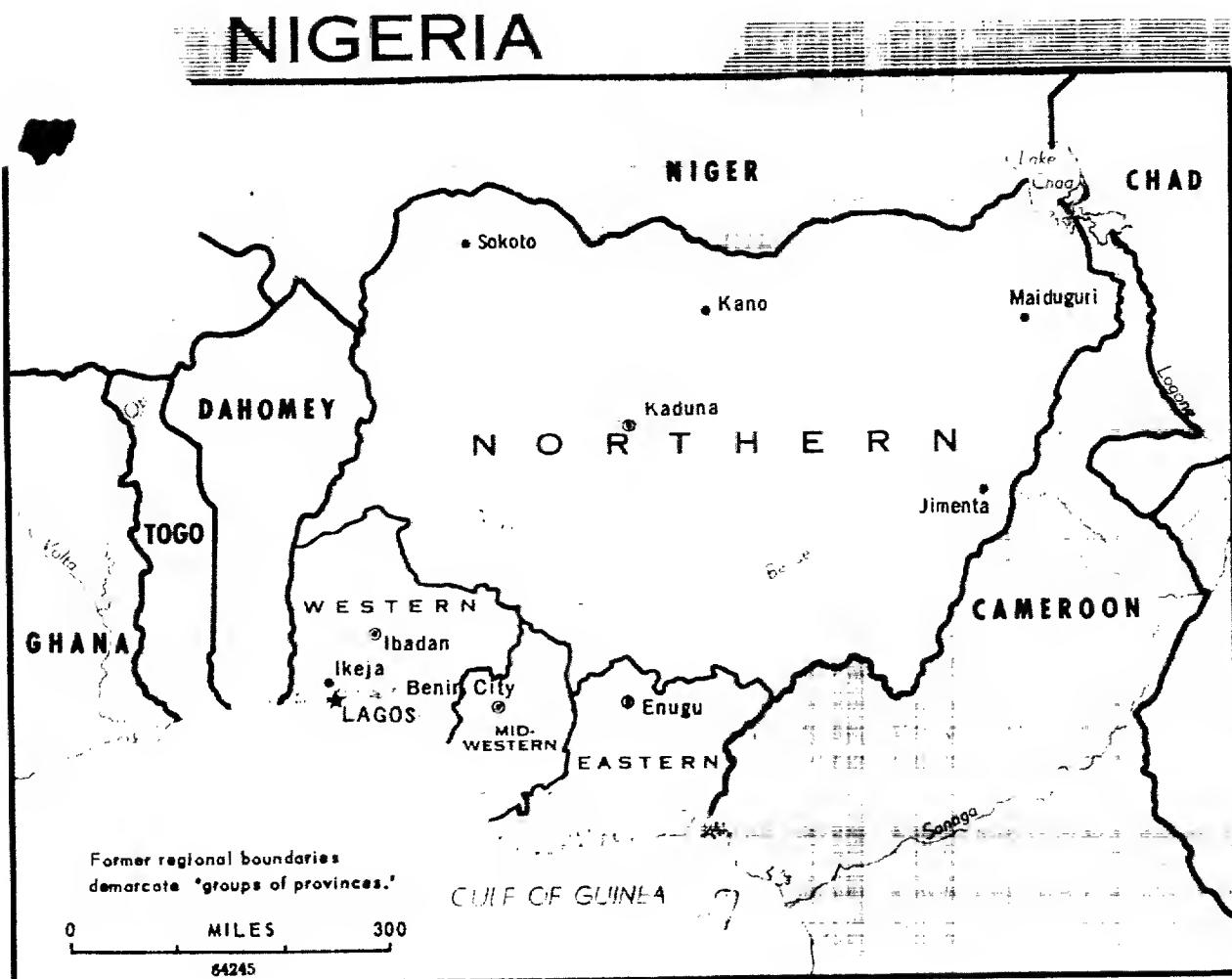
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3 Aug 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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Nigeria: All parts of the country are currently reported generally quiet and tension has subsided somewhat in the Lagos area. (see map)

No serious breakdown of discipline has yet occurred in the remnants of the badly shattered army. Discipline is reported firm and morale high among the police, who have remained aloof from the intra-army struggle and can probably cope with any disturbances which do not involve military personnel.

Eastern Military Governor Ojukwu is presently the spokesman for the Ibo tribesmen, who predominate in the eastern provinces. He was relatively restrained in commenting, on 1 August, on the bloody coup against General Ironsi, an Ibo. However, Ojukwu said the recent events raised "serious doubt" as to whether Nigeria's peoples can continue to live together as one country. He announced he was calling a meeting of Eastern "chiefs, leaders, and organizations" to advise him regarding the views of the people of the East.

The US consul in Enugu, the Eastern capital, subsequently reported that Ibo leaders there are currently charging ahead toward solution by partition. Local tensions are heightened by the apparent control which northern Hausa elements have over the Enugu-based army battalion. (see map)

Ojukwu's statement leaves some doubt as to whether he has accepted Army Chief of Staff Gowon as Ironsi's successor. Asserting that Brigadier Ogundipe, the ranking officer after Ironsi, should have taken over, he said he considered the "intent" of Gowon's 1 August takeover announcement as limited to the restoration of peace while further negotiations take place. *However, as of 2 August, Ojukwu and Gowon were trying to establish direct contact with one another.

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer has taken steps to reduce dissatisfaction within his party and to play down rumors of military plotting.

In a radio address on 1 August, Balaguer tried to reassure members of his own Reformist Party who believe they have not been rewarded with enough patronage; he declared that he is making a "superhuman effort" to open new sources of employment.

The President termed rumors of military plotting, apparently generated by numerous unexplained meetings of the country's military leaders, as "untrue or at least not serious." However, Balaguer singled out honorary general Antonio Imbert's recent visits to various bases as contributing to uneasiness in the capital and suggested that the minister of defense put a stop to them.

Balaguer also announced that Police Chief Jose Morillo Lopez has been replaced by Colonel Luis Ney Tejeda Alvarez. The switch may cause apprehension among opponents of the regime. During the last six months the police have been reorganized and used impartially. Opposition groups will be concerned that police practices may retrogress under the new chief, despite his reputation for honesty and effectiveness.

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Belgium: [The prospect that one of the major NATO-related facilities in France, AFCENT, will be relocated in West Germany rather than in the Netherlands seems likely to cause a sharp domestic reaction in Belgium. The Belgians have maintained that the relocation of NATO bases should be shared equitably among the Benelux countries, but the Netherlands and Luxembourg apparently want to avoid paralleling Belgium's acceptance of SHAPE. The Vanden Boeynants government is already under fire at home for not taking a firmer line with the Mobutu regime in the Congo.]

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